

program "Science in Action" on October 27 as Animal of the Week and went on display in the Aquarium the following day.

#### CURATOR ADDRESSES ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

AT THE GREAT BASIN Archaeological Conference held recently at the University of Nevada, W. I. Follett, the Academy's Curator of Ichthyology, presented a paper entitled "Fish Remains from Several Archaeological Sites in the Lahontan Basin."

#### CANADIAN EXHIBIT LEAVES SOON

"CANADA VISITS CALIFORNIA," the very popular exhibit sponsored by the Canadian government and which has been on display in the Academy's Lovell White Hall of Man and Nature since September, will remain on view until mid-November.

The exhibit has been especially popular with school classes, as was the hope of the sponsor. Scores of classes from schools all over the Bay Area have visited the exhibit since it was installed.

#### 142 MEXICAN BIRD, MAMMAL SKINS GIVEN TO ACADEMY

A VALUABLE COLLECTION of study skins of some 142 Mexican birds and mammals was recently given to the Academy by J. Stuart Rowley of San Mateo, a Life Member and former employee of the Academy.

The birds and mammals were collected in the Mexican state of Morelos during June, July and August, 1958. According to Dr. Robert T. Orr, Curator of the Department of Birds and Mammals, the collection includes several rare and especially welcome specimens.

#### PLANETARIUM POLL TAKEN

MEMBERS OF THE STAFF of Morrison Planetarium are now tabulating results of a poll taken recently among viewers of the September and October shows at the Planetarium. Viewers of the shows were asked to complete a short questionnaire which was designed to ascertain what astronomical aspects, i.e., the sun, moon, etc., would make the most popular Planetarium shows. Results of the poll will be used in working up the show schedule for 1959.

In 1958, two fine shows will be available during the remainder of the year. They include "Planetarium on Parade" from November 5 to November 30 and "The Star of Bethlehem" from December 3 to January 4.

#### NEW MEMBERS

NEW MEMBERS who joined the Academy in September are:

##### REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

Miss Neda Adams  
Miss Ruth B. Beeman  
Mrs. Alan Hawes Critcher  
Mr. H. Vannoy Davis  
Mr. Carl Hepp  
Mrs. Mae L. Herman

##### STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Charles F. Lowrey  
Mr. Edgar N. Stone  
Mr. Stewart R. White  
Mr. Warren R. Williamson  
Helen O'Brien

##### FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Hugh V. Conway  
Mr. David Hellman  
Mr. Barry L. Hood  
Mr. Kenneth H. Smith

NEW MEMBERS who joined the Academy in October are:

##### REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Robert D. Larsen  
Mrs. George M. Wihr

##### FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Robert E. Bundy  
Dr. Hugh T. Croley  
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Crooks

##### STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Gibson  
Mr. J. F. T. Saur

##### LIFE MEMBERSHIP

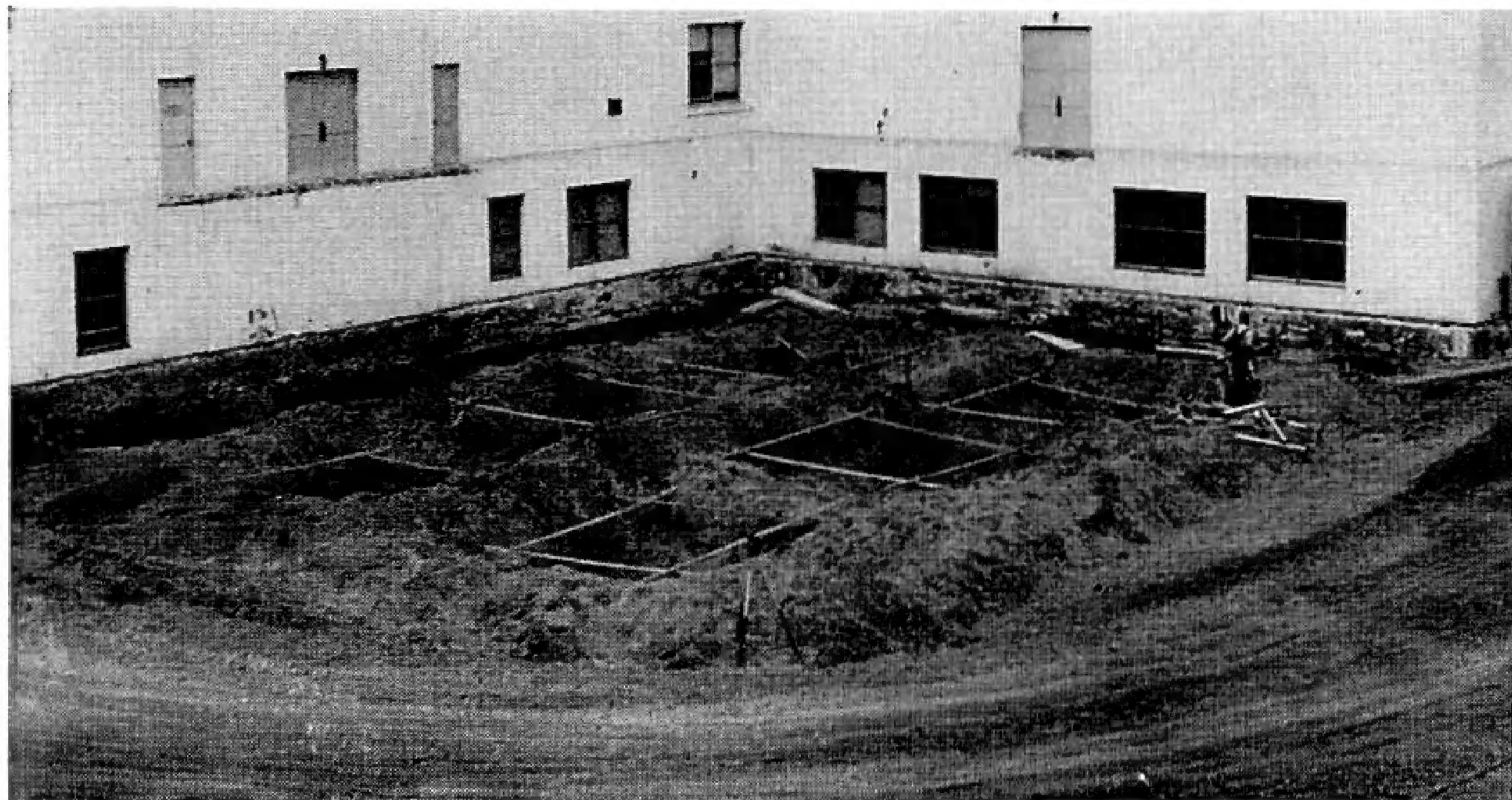
Mr. Jerrold F. Vistica  
ANNUAL SPONSOR  
Mr. Fred R. Muhs

Michael Bennett  
Marvin Olsen  
Theodore Pionteki  
Margaret Shields  
Joanna Silva

# ACADEMY NEWS LETTER

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—C.A.S. Photos by C. E. Crompton

#### PROGRESS GOOD ON NEW BUILDING

Above: September 10. Below: October 1

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GOLDEN GATE PARK • SAN FRANCISCO

# CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

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## November Announcement

THE REGULAR NOVEMBER MEETING of the California Academy of Sciences will be held at 8:15 p. m., Wednesday, November 5, in the May Treat Morrison Auditorium. Robert C. Hermes, photographer, lecturer and ardent naturalist, will open the 1958-1959 Walter B. Scaife Foundation lectures with an Audubon Screen Tour program entitled:

### "RANCH OF THE PURPLE FLOWERS"

Famous photographer-lecturer Hermes shot this natural history motion picture in color in Venezuela. He spent several months on a large cattle ranch in the basin of the Orinoco River in central Venezuela. There, on the *llanos* or plains and in the jungles, he found birds, animals and reptiles seldom seen even in the museums and zoos of North America.

From his headquarters on the beautiful flower-decked Orinoco ranch, Hermes and his movie camera roamed the *llanos* and jungles capturing on film an extensive and vivid array of birds including the *corocoro* (scarlet ibis), blue tanager, sun bittern and others. Lizards, exotic butterflies, the tree-climbing anteater, the strange pecuri, the beautiful Venezuelan deer and red howler monkeys are other "actors" in "Ranch of the Purple Flowers," the full-color motion picture which Academy members and their friends are cordially invited to see.

### DECEMBER MEETING TO FEATURE EVERGLADES

THE ONLY REGION of its kind in all North America, the Florida Everglades, will be featured at the December Academy meeting when William H. Waggoner presents "A Touch of the Tropics," a color motion picture in the Audubon Screen Tour series.

This Walter B. Scaife Foundation lecture, which will show the shadowy habitats of alligators, ibises and egrets as well as the underwater haunts of tropical sea creatures, will be presented at 8:15 p. m., Monday, December 8, in May Treat Morrison Auditorium.

### BUILDING GOING UP RAPIDLY

IF EVERYTHING GOES according to schedule, the Academy will have a newly completed John Ward Mailliard Jr. Memorial Library and Alice Eastwood Hall of Botany about the third week in February, 1959.

The building schedule calls for completion of the new Library and Hall of Botany in 180 days from the time ground was broken in mid-August. If construction continues at the present rate (see cover picture), this schedule should be met.

On the main floor of the new wing, the appearance of which will harmonize with the Academy's existing buildings, will be located the Hall of Botany and the two upper floors will be occupied by the Library.

### ASTRONOMY SECTION MEETING

THE NOVEMBER MEETING of the Academy's Astronomy Section will be held at 8:15 p. m., Wednesday, November 19, in the Student Lecture Room of the Hall of Sciences. Charles F. Hagar, Assistant Curator of Astronomy at the Academy, will conduct the meeting.

Hagar will lecture on "Relativity for the Layman, Part II," a continuation of a topic begun last summer. In describing the lecture, Hagar said "The theory of relativity has been considered difficult to understand, but only because its predictions are difficult to believe, not because of any innate incomprehensibility. The lecture will be based upon a book by James A. Coleman and will be a simplified account, with illustration by slides, of the history, general theory and proofs of relativity."

### STEINHART MARKS 35TH YEAR

THE ACADEMY'S WORLD-FAMED Steinhart Aquarium recently observed its 35th birthday. There were no special observances; it was just another in the long list of consecutive days the Aquarium has been open to the public. Since the Aquarium was opened in 1923, in fact, it has been open to the public every single day, including Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

### "EXPLORERS OF TOMORROW" RETURNS TO AIR

PRODUCED BY THE ACADEMY and telecast as a public service by Station KRON-TV, Channel 4, "Explorers of Tomorrow," the Academy's half-hour television series designed to stimulate the interest of boys and girls at intermediate level in science pursuits, recently returned to begin its fourth year on the air. The series is seen over Channel 4 every Sunday from 1 to 1:30 p. m.

Science Interpreter for the series is Dr. Robert T. Orr, the Academy's Curator of Birds and Mammals; Harry Kanuck is in charge of Science Projects, and Ronny Baker is Student Demonstrator. Besides the weekly science subject, each show also features a Science Project which can be completed by the young viewers at home, and a Mystery Object Contest. A complete set of instructions for each Science Project is sent out to anyone who asks for it.

Benjamin Draper, Executive Producer in the Academy's Television Department, said the heavy mail received after the series' first Sunday back on the air indicated the show's return was a welcome event.

### AQUARIUM SHOWS GARIBALDIS, NEW LIZARD

A BRIGHT SPLASH of vivid color in Steinhart Aquarium is provided by more than two dozen recently acquired specimens now on display. The specimens are Garibaldis, brilliant orange fish given to the Aquarium by Southern California's Marineland of the Pacific.

Maximum length for Garibaldis, also known as salt-water goldfish, is 14 inches; the Steinhart specimens are from six to eight inches long.

One of the strangest beasts ever to appear on television is now on display in the Aquarium. The beast goes by the formal name of *Moloch horridus* and it is an ant-eating lizard native to central and western Australia.

About ten inches in length, the Aquarium's specimen of *M. horridus* is tan and brown in color and it is covered with a profusion of warts, knobs and other protuberances. The lizard made its Bay Area debut on the Academy's television